

Stone Town Council – Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone,
on Tuesday 16 August 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J. Hood in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, J. Davies, R. Kenney, P. Leason and J. Powell

Officers: L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

By Chairman's invitation: No Councillors

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs K. Dawson, C. Thornicroft and S. Walley

TTP23/008 Apologies

Councillors: Mrs K. Dawson, C. Thornicroft and S. Walley

TTP23/009 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None received

TTP23/010 Representations from Members of the Public

None

TTP23/011 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee meeting held on the 24 May 2022 (Minute Numbers TTP23/001 – TTP23/007), were approved as a correct record.

TTP23/012 HS2

The Chairman welcomed Mr Trevor Parkin of the Stone Railhead Crisis Group to the meeting and invited him to provide an update on the current position with HS2 as it affects the Stone area.

Mr Parkin expressed the Crisis Group's appreciation of the Town Council's support over the previous six years. He said the group had gone quiet of late because it was working behind the scenes trying to influence the Government on its decision.

Mr Parkin delivered his presentation (using an overhead projector), which included details of HS2 Ltd's plans to build a railhead in Yarnfield and Stone Railhead Crisis

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Group's proposal to move its location to Aldersey's Rough.

Mr Parkin explained the reasons, in the opinion of Stone Railhead Crisis Group, that the Railhead was not a feasible proposition in Stone from an engineering, economic, transport and logistics perspective.

He talked about the many risk factors of the Yarnfield site and presented his views on the advantages of Aldersey's Rough which included cost savings, utility advantages, construction on ground that was sound, hidden from view (no visual impact) and away from neighbouring homes. He also suggested that this site would allow delivery by rail much more quickly, relieving pressure on the road network.

Mr Parkin put forward Stone Railhead Crisis Group's suggestions for making the rail network more beneficial to the area and beyond (with or without HS2 Phase 2a and 2b going ahead) as he believed there were no service advantages from the HS2 railway for local people.

After Councillors had taken the opportunity to ask questions, the Chairman thanked Mr Parkin for his attendance, on behalf of members of the Sub-Committee.

Mr Parkin left the meeting after his item had concluded.

TTP23/013 Calendar of Events 2022

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to provide an update on the calendar of event noticeboard displays in the town for 2022.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that as part of a town noticeboard review the calendar of events and business directory would be updated. He said he was awaiting final approval for the artwork which will now incorporate Crown Wharf and the Leisure Centre area.

The Sub-Committee considered past and future Town Council events in 2022 which included the arrangements for the following:

- **Florence Brass Band Concert in Stonefield Park**

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Florence Brass Band Concert, held on Sunday 14 August, had been a resounding success and appeared to have been enjoyed by all who attended. Councillor Mrs Hood said that she hoped the event would be held again next year and included in the calendar (discussed above).

The Concert was a big team effort with the Town Council providing cream teas and the Marquee Contractor, Grounds Maintenance Contractor and the new Park Ranger delivering their services on the day. The Band had enjoyed playing and the Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee had also offered their support to the occasion.

A Burma Star commemoration took place during the concert and the attendance

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of the Army Cadets was greatly appreciated.

- Stone by the Sea

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that Warwick's Funfair was currently bringing the sandpit and rides into the town in preparation for the event to open tomorrow (Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th August).

The Chairman pointed out that the event will be free for families to enjoy and will hopefully benefit businesses in the town as well if greater numbers of people make a visit.

- Christmas Lights Switch-On

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that a meeting had been held with Christmas Lights Plus to discuss the Christmas Lights Switch-On event on Thursday 17th November.

Councillor Mrs Hood said the staging will be installed at the top of the town as there is a long line of sight down the High Street providing a better view to more people than would be the case if the stage was positioned in Market Square.

- Any other suggested events

The Chairman invited the Sub-Committee to offer suggestions for future events.

Councillor Leason made the point that next year (on 13 March) would be the 200th anniversary of the death of the Earl of St. Vincent and that the Borough Council was looking at having a service on 12 March in consultation with HMS Collingwood.

Councillor Leason suggested that the Town Council consider holding an event in Stone, perhaps on Saturday 11 March, in conjunction with St Michael & St Wulfad's Church.

The Sub-Committee agreed that a commemorative event should be held, particularly as the Earl of St. Vincent was a strong-minded Stone person who had wanted to be buried in the town.

The Sub-Committee suggested the Town Council work with HMS St. Vincent Association and contact its members as soon as possible.

TTP23/014 Town Clock

The Sub-Committee considered the current situation with the timekeeping of the High Street Clock which has not been accurate for a considerable period despite a sizable sum of money being spent on repairs over a number of years.

The Sub-Committee noted that although included on the agenda due to the clock's impact on the appearance of the town, the budget for its upkeep was the responsibility of the Estates Sub-Committee.

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The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that the Joules clock (which had been restored after removal from another location and a long period of storage) was held very dear by the people of Stone as it was an important part of the town's heritage.

RECOMMENDED: That the Estates Sub-Committee is asked to consider the future of the town clock.

TTP23/015 Promotion of Stone Working Group

The Committee considered whether the Promotion of Stone Working Group should be disbanded, after a suggestion was made at the last meeting that the working group was no longer needed.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the Promotion of Stone Working Group had been set up during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to look at getting the High Street up and running again after the first lockdown. There had been several meetings held followed by proposed actions and a budget created for the year 2021-22.

However, no bids were put forward for the funding and once the town was up and running again no further meetings of the working group took place.

RESOLVED: That the Promotion of Stone Working Group is disbanded.

TTP23/016 Reports from Working Groups

The Chairman invited the Working Groups to address the Sub-Committee:

Remembrance Plaques Working Group

Councillor J. Davies advised the Sub-Committee that Oak Tree Farm was starting to open up again but was currently refurbishing the pottery workshop which needed to be complete before the production of an example plaque.

Councillor Davies advised on his plans to visit the properties identified as homes of WW2 soldiers to make judgement about whether they would be suitable to receive a plaque.

Promotion of Stone Working Group

This working group has now closed (see Minute Number TTP23/007 above).

Market Strategy (Market Pricing & Strategy)

The Chairman reminded the Sub-Committee that the Craft Market signs were in very poor condition and needed to be replaced as soon as possible.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that through social media the craft market had been promoted and there has been a number of new stands. She said the craft market was the ideal opportunity for new businesses to test how their products are

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received.

Chairman

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